

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 SAM-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 /074 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8153

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON GNG

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2569

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU MPOL

SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER ASSURES PARLIAMENT ON CAPABILITIES
OF ARMED FORCES

REF ATHENS 2424 (NOTAL) ATHENS 2459 (NOTAL)

1. MINISTER OF DEFENSE AVEROFF ASSURED MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT APRIL 1 THAT GREEK ARMED FORCES ARE CAPABLE OF
DEFENDING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF NATION IN VERY
SATISFACTORY MANNER "WORTHY OF THEIR HISTORY." AVEROFF'S
STATEMENT FOLLOWED EARLIER STATEMENT BY PASOK LEADER
ANDREAS PAPANDREOU TO THE EFFECT THAT GREEK ARMY IS IN A
POSITION "BETTER THAN MANY OTHER ARMIES" TO FACE QUESTION
OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. AVEROFF CONCLUDED HIS OWN REMARKS BY
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GIVING ASSURANCES THAT ARMY WAS IN A POSITION TO FIGHT

WELL AT ANY TIME IF THE NECESSITY AROSE.

2. DURING PAST WEEK OR SO SEVERAL STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN
ISSUED BY GOG AIMED AT REASSURING PUBLIC THAT GREECE'S
EXTERNAL SECURITY IS IN NO DANGER (REFTELS). NECESSITY
FOR SUCH DECLARATIONS SOURCED IN PROVOCATIVE PRESS ACCOUNTS
OF TURKISH OVERFLIGHTS OF GREEK ISLANDS AND TERRITORIAL
WATERS WHICH COMMENCED MID-MARCH. AS RESULT GOSSIP MILLS
THROUGHOUT COUNTRY HAVE FUELED PUBLIC ANXIETY WITH
DISQUIETING RUMORS AS TO TURKISH INTENTIONS. KUBISCH

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